WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing D-pantothenic acid comprising

a. culturing a *Coryneform* bacteria comprising an attenuated poxB gene in a medium suitable for producing D-pantothenoic acid; and

b. collecting the D-pantothenic acid produced.

2. The process of Claim 1, wherein said poxB gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

3. The process of Claim 1, wherein said poxB gene comprises SEQ ID NO:6.

4. The process of Claim 1, wherein said poxB gene comprises SEQ ID NO:7.

5. The process of Claim 1, wherein said poxB gene comprises SEQ ID NO:4.

6. The process of Claim 1, wherein said D-pantothenic acid is concentrated prior to said collecting.

7. The process of Claim 1, wherein said D-pantothenic acid is concentrated after said collecting.

8. The process of Claim 1, wherein said poxB gene comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and which encodes a PoxB protein having attenuated PoxB activity, wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 5X SSC at a temperature from 50 to 68°C.

9. The process of Claim 1, wherein said poxB gene is eliminated in said *Coryneform* bacteria.

10. The process of Claim 1, wherein said *Coryneform* bacteria is *Coryneform glutamicum*.

11. The process of Claim 1, wherein said *Coryneform* bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Coryneformbacterium acteoglutamicum, Coryneformbacterium acetoacidophilum, Coryneformbacterium thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum,* and *Brevibacterium divaricatum*.

12. The process of Claim 1, wherein said *Coryneform* bacterium further comprises at least one gene whose expression is enhanced, wherein said gene is selected from the group consisting of panB, panC, and ilvD.

13. *Escherichia coli* DSM 13114.

14. A process for producing D-pantothnic acid comprising:

a. transforming a *Coryneform* bacteria with a vector comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3;

b. selecting *Coryneform* bacteria that have attenuated poxB expression;

c. culturing said selected *Coryneform* bacteria in a medium suitable producing D-pantothenoic acid; and

d. collecting the D-pantothenic acid produced.

15. The process of Claim 14, wherein said poxB gene comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under

stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and which encodes a PoxB protein having attenuated PoxB activity, wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 5X SSC at a temperature from 50 to 68°C.

16. The process of Claim 14, wherein said *Coryneform* bacteria is *Coryneform glutamicum*.

17. The process of Claim 14, wherein said *Coryneform* bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Coryneformbacterium acteoglutamicum, Coryneformbacterium acetoacidophilum, Coryneformbacterium thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum,* and *Brevibacterium divaricatum*.

18. The process of Claim 14, wherein said *Coryneform* bacterium further comprises at least one gene whose expression is enhanced, wherein said gene is selected from the group consisting of panB, panC, and ilvD.

19. A *Coryneform* bacteria comprising an attenuated poxB gene.

20. The *Coryneform* bacteria of Claim 19, which is a *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

21. The *Coryneform* bacteria of Claim 19, wherein said attenuated poxB gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

22. A process for producing D-pantothnic acid comprising:

a. transforming a *Coryneform* bacteria with a vector comprising the polynucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7;

b. selecting *Coryneform* bacteria that have attenuated poxB expression;

c. culturing said selected *Coryneform* bacteria in a medium suitable producing D-pantothenoic acid; and

d. collecting the D-pantothenic acid produced.

23. The process of Claim 22, wherein said poxB gene comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and which encodes a PoxB protein having attenuated PoxB activity, wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 5X SSC at a temperature from 50 to 68°C.

24. The process of Claim 22, wherein a sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 is deleted in the attenuated poxB gene.

25. The process of Claim 22, wherein said *Coryneform* bacteria is *Coryneform glutamicum*.

26. The process of Claim 22, wherein said *Coryneform* bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Coryneformbacterium acteoglutamicum, Coryneformbacterium acetoacidophilum, Coryneformbacterium thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum,* and *Brevibacterium divaricatum*.

27. The process of Claim 22, wherein said *Coryneform* bacterium further comprises at least one gene whose expression is enhanced, wherein said gene is selected from the group consisting of panB, panC, and ilvD.

28. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

29. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

30. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.